



NOAA Fisheries

National Marine Fisheries Service



November 1, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 1

Something Fishy:

Newsletter of the SEFSC Miami Lab

Welcome!

The Facility Committee is pleased to introduce "Something Fishy" to employees of the SEFSC Miami Laboratory. This newsletter will be published quarterly, and will highlight the accomplishments of center personnel. It will also include news and upcoming events. We hope you will enjoy this newsletter, and invite you to contribute photographs, stories,



Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Miami Laboratory

announcements, etcetera. To make a contribution, contact Shannon. Calay@noaa.gov.

Name the Newsletter

Do you have a clever title for the newsletter? Please submit it to the Facility Committee at Jeff.

Willoughby@noaa.gov.

Perhaps your efforts will grace the next edition.

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Annual Holiday Party

The holiday party will take place on Friday December 6, 2002. Lunch will be provided by the Facility Committee using funds generated by pizza sales. *Tentative* plans for the menu include smoked fish and roast pork. Black beans, rice and a green salad will also be provided. Hot dogs will be available for children (and the young at heart). All SEFSC personnel, spouses and children are welcome. Admission is free for SEFSC employees. Tickets for spouses and children will be available for a nominal fee.

In lieu of an admission fee, we ask that you bring a dessert, salad or appetizer. For those less gastronomically inclined, please consider donating a door prize. Final details will be emailed to you later in the month, at which time signup sheets for reservations, pot-luck dish, and raffle prize donation will be in posted in Patty

Special points of interest:

- Annual Holiday Party will be held Fri. Dec. 6, 2002.
- Brown-Bag Seminar by Dr. Jim Bohnsack Wed. Nov. 13, 2002 at 12 noon in the Large Conference Room.
- Journal Club meets 9:30 am Wed. Nov. 20.

Phares's office, room 311

Beach Volleyball Anyone?

The beach volleyball court is available during the holiday party (and for informal games). However, it needs some elbow grease! If you would like to play, please organize a group, then contact Jeff. Willoughby@noaa.gov to discuss a work session.



2001 Annual SEFSC Holiday Party

Brown-Bag Seminar Series

A new brown-bag (luncheon) seminar series will begin on Wednesday Nov. 13, 2002. Dr. Jim Bohnsack has generously volunteered to be our first speaker. He will show two videos: *The Science Of Marine Reserves* (2002) and *Oceans For The Future: The Making Of Marine Protected Areas* (2001). The seminar will be held at 12 noon in the large conference room. For those new employees, the large conference room is the outbuilding with the shark mural. Please feel free to bring your lunch.



presentations are welcome. Presentations should be no longer than 45 minutes. Projectors and video equipment are available on request.

If you would like to volunteer to speak, please contact Alex.Chester@noaa.gov, or Shannon.Calay@noaa.gov.

Seminar Series Steering Committee:

Alex Chester would like to organize a steering committee for the seminar series. This committee would encourage and organize future sessions. If you would like to participate, contact Alex.Chester@noaa.gov.

Future brown-bag seminars will take place on a monthly basis. We invite any SEFSC employee or associate to participate. Both formal, and less formal

Journal Club

The Sustainable Fisheries Division invites interested parties to attend the first meeting of the Journal Club. The group will meet bi-weekly, beginning Wed. Nov. 20, in the small conference room (1st Floor). Each meeting, the group will discuss recent publications concerning important advancements in fisheries biology. We invite you to submit titles for the first meeting to Liz.Brooks@noaa.gov by Wed. Nov. 13. Coffee and snacks will be available for participants.



What's News?

This section will feature the goals, accomplishments and ongoing projects of each division. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, but we hope to illustrate the versatility and talent of SEFSC Miami personnel.

Sustainable Fisheries Division (SFD): The Sustainable Fisheries Division conducts research to determine the distribution and abundance of living marine resources managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA).

Recently, SFD members prepared or participated on stock assessments of bluefish, little tunny, cero mackerel, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, large coastal sharks, yellowedge grouper and red grouper. In addition, SFD members have cooperated extensively with ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) in Madrid, Spain, to update assessments of white marlin, bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna and swordfish.

Currently, SFD personnel are also involved in a simulation study to compare surplus production models with age structured production models, and the crea-

tion of population models using length and age-structure.

Protected Resources and Biodiversity Division (PR&BD): The mission of the Protected Resources and Biodiversity division (PR&BD) is to: provide oversight, guidance, coordination and direction for research regarding protected species; develop research programs on biodiversity; contribute to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Initiative; and develop Center-wide research and assessment programs for protected resources.

The marine mammal team of the PR&BD division has spent much of the summer and fall conducting aerial surveys for listed bottlenose dolphins in the mid-Atlantic in collaboration with our marine mammal staff in the Beaufort, Charleston and Pascagoula laboratories. The mid-Atlantic bottlenose dolphin working group is lead by Aleta Hohn at our Beaufort Lab, and has the responsibility for providing status information to the Take Reduction Team for bottlenose dolphin. The mammal group is currently planning vessel surveys for sperm whales to be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico in summer 2003 and winter 2004 to update the status of stock information for this species. Here at home, Joe Contillo and Jenny Litz have begun biopsy/genetic sampling of our local Biscayne Bay bottlenose dolphin population, to develop a genetically based population profile for this group and to better understand their place in the South Florida region.

Currently, the main priority of the sea turtle management team is the analysis of sea turtle bycatch in the SE Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico shrimp fisheries. This project will provide critical guidance concerning a proposal to require larger escape openings in shrimp-net turtle excluder devices (TED). Sea turtle team

members are also investigating the effectiveness of mitigation measures to reduce the incidental take and mortality of sea turtles by pelagic longline gear in the Northeast Distant (NED) waters. Preliminary results look promising. Turtle/gear interactions appear to be reduced using a combination of mackerel bait and circle hooks. Miami Lab personnel are also working to produce a searchable, web-based database for the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN), which collects information and documents strandings of marine turtles along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and

Atlantic coasts. Closer to home, research is underway to examine the "in-water" distribution and abundance of marine turtles in coastal southwest Florida. Also, sea turtle team members (and volunteers) continue to conduct seasonal sea turtle nesting surveys on Virginia Key. This season, 28 loggerhead nests were laid over 4 km of beach, about 1/3 of the 2001 total of 85 nests. Special thanks to all the

volunteers and their supervisors for participating!

Operations, Management and Information (OMI): This division provides primary advice, support, and guidance for the SEFSC and the Southeast Regional Office in the following areas: strategic, tactical and operational planning, scientific program management, facility management, and information systems management.

Members of the OMI Program Operations Office are hard at work transitioning to a new administration program, the Commerce Administrative Management System (CAMS). The Facilities and Maintenance team is hard at work keeping the building in working order, but they have made the time to repair the picnic/BBQ hut. Thanks!




A survey crew aboard the R/V Miller

New Employees


Isabel Holder:	OMI Budget Analyst
Juan Carlos Orellana:	Maintenance Dept. Contractor
Eric Orbeson:	SFD Fishery Biologist
Kevin McCarthy:	SFD Fishery Biologist
Guillermo Diaz:	SFD Fishery Biologist
Ching-Ping Chih:	SFD Statistician



November 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17		19		21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						

December 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Schedule of Events

Federal Holidays in Red

- **Until Dec. 31:** Open season for Thrift Savings Plan (www.tsp.gov)
- **Until Dec. 31:** Open season for Long Term Health Care (www.ltcfeds.com)
- **Mon. Nov. 11: Veterans Day**
- **Wed. Nov. 13:** Brown-Bag Seminar
12 p.m. Large Conference Room 
- **Wed. Nov. 20:** Journal Club Meeting:
9:30 a.m. 1st Floor Conference Room 
- **Thu. Nov. 28: Thanksgiving Day**
- **Wed. Dec. 4:** Journal Club Meeting: 9:30 a.m. 1st Floor Conference Room
- **Fri. Dec. 6:** Annual Holiday Party 1:00 p.m. Picnic Area
- **Wed. Dec. 25: Christmas Day**
- **Wed. Jan 1: New Year's Day**

